THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) There is no Tsunami Warning System in place at present for Indian Ocean region as such. However, Government of India is in the process of setting up an Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in the Indian Ocean. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, has been identified for setting up a Tsunami Warning Centre on a 24x7 basis by the Department of Ocean Development (DOD). Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Space (DoS) and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Laboratories are the major agencies that are involved in the endeavour.

US Model for Monsoon Prediction

502. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a discussion with regard to buying US monsoon model for weather prediction;

(b) if so, its status thereof; and

(c) whether its levels of accuracy have been checked in forecasting in India's monsoon conditions?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to obtain a US monsoon model. However, a 'Weather Research & Forecast' Model has been obtained free of cost from the National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), USA which will be useful for tropical monsoon forecasts. It is undergoing extensive testing for its suitability through a Forecast Demonstration Project which will take three to four years.

National Chemical Laboratory, Pune

503. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Chemical Laboratory, Pune has developed a filter for the elimination of both bacteria and viruses;